

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action of September 23, 2005, are earnestly solicited.

Claims 1—7 have been canceled, Claims 8—14 have been amended, and Claims 15—23 have been added, leaving Claims 8—23 pending in the application.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Aoki (U.S. 6,323,444 B1). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Aoki teaches a seat weight measuring apparatus utilizing load transmitting arms 16 having an end associated with the load cell which is not rigidly secured directly to the seat base or frame 3. Rather, the Aoki coupling allows sliding and rotating movement of arm 23 relative to point contacts 41b and 42b (Aoki Fig. 1). Since the Aoki load cell is not rigidly coupled to the seat base or frame, the seat may shake, and generate noise during use of the associated vehicle. Additionally, Aoki does not generate S-shaped bends in sensor plate 51, but a single arced displacement as in a cantilever beam.

Applicants, by contrast, in amended Claim 8 call for first and second attachment portions of respective first and second flexible beams being rigidly secured to the seat base. This arrangement results in S-shaped bends in the flexible beams under load which provides improved sensitivity of the bridge formed by the strain sensing elements. This arrangement additionally substantially maintains bridge balance under moment forces thereby substantially ignoring the effects of a passenger shifting in the seat base.

Claim 8 and its dependent Claims 9—23 are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The rejections of Claims 9, 11 and 14, are believed overcome by the arguments set forth above with respect to Claim 8, from which Claims 9, 11 and 14 depend.

Claims 8—14, as amended herein, and newly Claims 15—23 are believed to be in condition for allowance, early acknowledgment of which is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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